



**NOTICE OF MEETING
ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: Thursday, August 12, 2010

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Room 360, City Hall, corner of Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Chair Joe Restagno, Commissioners Lola Brown, Mike Cooper, Bill Delaney, Gina Mariani, and Bill Sonneman
Staff: Dale Lillard, ARPD Director
Absent: None

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Nomination and Selection of Chair

M/S/C SONNEMAN/MARIANI (unanimously approved)

“That Joe Restagno be elected Chair of the Recreation & Park Commission.”

B. Nomination and Selection of Vice Chair

M/S/C SONNEMAN/MARIANI (unanimously approved)

“That Lola Brown be elected Vice Chair of the Recreation & Park Commission.”

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve Minutes of April 8, 2010.

M/S/C BROWN/COOPER (approved)

“That the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2010 are approved.”

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

Vice Chair Brown asked if a letter was sent in support of Estuary Park. Commissioner Cooper stated that Commissioners were going to send individual letters to the Planning Department. This was regarding the Boat Works project. Director Lillard stated that he believed it was approved.

5. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Recreation Commission Meeting Attendance – (Discussion Item)

Director Lillard stated that there will be a lot of important issues (e.g., Measure WW Projects, etc.) coming before the Recreation Commission and wants to make sure that the Commission knows and understands the importance of attending meetings.

Chair Restagno stated that he felt it was important that if a Commissioner is not going to make a meeting to let the ARPD Director know as soon as possible. Director Lillard stated that if we are notified ahead of time a special meeting could be held on a different night. With the special projects coming up, they will have to be dealt with in a timely manner and if we miss a month we will not be able to make it up.

Director Lillard also stated that he had really wanted the agreement with the Alameda Boys & Girls Club to be reviewed by the Commission, but now the agreement has been done and completed without the Commission's review. Also, the Boat Works project has been approved.

Vice Chair Brown asked if a meeting reminder notice can be sent a week before the Commission meetings. Commissioner Sonneman stated that it would be better if a reminder was sent out the Monday before the scheduled meeting.

Chair Restagno stated that with a Commission of seven people there needs to be four Commissioners need to be in attendance to make a quorum. Mr. Restagno clarified that there was a vacant position on the Commission with Director Lillard.

Director Lillard stated that the City Manager's Office will be reviewing all Boards and Commissions. The reason the Commission was increased from five members to seven is due to the Golf Commission having seven members. There may be some consolidation or reduction of commissions and/or boards.

Commissioner Mariani asked if the Mayor was currently considering appointing anyone to the Recreation Commission to fill the vacancy. Director Lillard stated that he has not asked. The City Clerk accepts applications all of the time.

Chair Restagno reconfirmed with Director Lillard that to have a quorum for the Recreation Commission there needs to be four commissioners in attendance. Director Lillard stated that is correct.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

A. Park Division

See August 10, 2010 Activity Report.

B. Recreation Division

See August 10, 2010 Activity Report.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See August 10, 2010 Activity Report.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

Director Lillard stated that as a whole the number of participants in the summer programs increased in all areas. Staff will have a presentation/report for the Commission at their September meeting.

Commissioner Cooper stated that the WOW Program at Washington Park was outstanding this summer.

9. STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS

None.

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

Director Lillard stated that the RFQ for the Park Master Plan was sent out and 17 responses were received from as far away as New York and Chicago. The ARPD Director and Interim City Manager (ICM) narrowed the list down to five. Those firms have been invited to an interview on Thursday, August 26. The Interview Panel consists of a Deputy City Manager, ARPD Director, and the Newark Recreation & Park Director. The first half of the interviews will consist of a presentation by the various firms with the last half being structured questions. Firms will be ranked and a list will be given to the ICM who will select a firm and negotiations will begin on scope of work and fees.

The Park Master Plan was funded by Council and adopted on July 27. It is anticipated that work will begin in October 2010. Also, staff has been directed to develop a tree plan for both the Recreation & Park Department and the Golf Course.

Chair Restagno asked what the budget was for the Master Plan. Director Lillard stated that the cost will be approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Director Lillard stated that all City of Alameda Measure WW Projects have been approved by East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). There is now a signed agreement with the Alameda Boys and Girls Club which went to Council and was approved. We have assigned times for use in the evenings for the Boys and Girls Club. We also have use of Saturday mornings with the exception of the ten weeks that AYB is in session and all day on Sundays for the gym. These terms are the guaranteed minimums stipulated in the agreement.

Commissioner Sonneman asked if there will be a priority use list. Director Lillard stated yes.

Vice Chair Brown asked how late the Boys and Girls Club stays open. Director Lillard stated that he believes it is 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Sonneman asked when the Boys and Girls Club's new building would be open. Director Lillard stated spring 2011.

Director Lillard stated that staff has begun the process for the Tillman Park Playground Replacement Project. Staff are meeting with the city attorney to determine if a pre-bid (CMAS) process can be used for certain items. If we are able to do the project this way, we should be able to proceed quickly and may have the project completed by the end of October 2010.

Director Lillard stated that staff will do a request for a landscape architect for the Krusi Park Building Renovation. This project will include installing a new recreation building, installing another restroom/snack bar type of building and, depending on funds; possibly redo some pathways, lighting, etc. Tentative schedule is construction beginning in spring 2011 and completion by next summer 2011.

Director Lillard stated that the tennis courts at Leydecker Park will be done first. This park has the most problems with the courts settling and cracking. Other courts will be done in spring 2011. We are waiting to see if EBRPD will allow us to split the project in this manner.

Director Lillard stated that the City and Alameda Miracle League have entered into an agreement. This agreement is for the use of the old Estuary Park by Coast Guard Housing near the old naval base. This will enable Miracle League to prove to potential donors that they have a site and it will also help them when they apply for grant funds. Also, the City has given them \$50,000 to advance their design plans. Miracle League will fundraise for another \$25,000 to get the drawings in place.

Commissioner Sonneman stated that the Oakland A's have picked the East Bay Miracle League as their charity. If you go to the A's website and vote there is a Pepsi Contest to raise funds. The team that gets the most online votes gets \$250,000 for their charity. It is a big deal that the A's have picked Miracle League to be their charity of choice.

Director Lillard wanted to inform the Commission that there is a possible concept being talked about around town. The City was approached by a non-profit regarding the possibility of taking over the responsibility for the entire maintenance of one field as a pilot program. This pilot program would be in exchange for a three month joint use in which they would have priority for scheduling. This concept was discussed at the Field Scheduling Meeting and rumors began circulating that the City was selling the fields, etc.

This concept is being considered because over the next few years the General Fund money will shrink and the City will be facing some difficult decisions on funding.

Some decisions could determine whether to fund police, fire, public works, or park maintenance worker/s. The concept is that if a non-profit/group comes in and picks up some field maintenance costs, then we could shift the resources that we have

to other fields throughout the City and make them all better. The City is saying that if everyone wants to participate in the concept the City will look at it. We are trying to pool resources.

Commissioner Sonneman asked if the group/s would pay. Director Lillard stated yes, and there would be a formal agreement.

Commissioner Sonneman asked if they (non-profits/groups) would get to control the scheduling. Director Lillard stated no, ARPD always controls the scheduling.

Director Lillard stated that there are things that would need to be worked out; it is just a concept at this point. There are still questions to be answered.

Director Lillard stated that before this happens the concept would have to go through this body (Recreation Commission) and will need Council approval. Chair Restagno stated that not everything goes through the Recreation Commission. The Commission has learned that already. Director Lillard stated that he would bring the item back before the Recreation and Park Commission.

Director Lillard stated that some cities have turned their fields over to groups in short of having to lock their gates.

Chair Restagno asked whether it would still be City maintenance staff taking care of the fields. Director Lillard stated that it could be city staff, or a contractor that the City approves.

Commissioner Sonneman asked if the City would still be paying for that employee. Director Lillard stated yes. Even if the concept was approved it will never cover 100% of the staff costs. But, it would help spread the resources.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

12. SET NEXT MEETING DATE: September 9, 2010

13. ADJOURNMENT